

GILA NATIONAL FOREST



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Catwalk Recreation Area to Reopen April 5

Glenwood, NM; March 25, 2014 – The public is invited to join the Gila National Forest April 5, 2014 for the reopening of the Catwalk Recreation Area. This event will be held in conjunction with the Glenwood Dutch Oven Cook-Off.

Joint efforts by U.S. Forest Service and N.M. Department of Transportation personnel have improved road conditions along N.M. Highway 174, removed debris from picnic areas, and cleared approximately ½ mile of the historic trail.

Debbie Cress, Glenwood District Ranger says, “This will be a great opportunity for folks to enjoy the Catwalk, take in the beautiful scenery, see the work that’s been accomplished and appreciate all that the Glenwood area has to offer.”

Short-term work to restore the Catwalk area includes:

- Completed channel work to return Whitewater Creek flows to the upper low water crossing.
- Cleared sediment, logs, and other debris away from picnic tables.
- Cleared landslides and stabilized handrails along the historic trail from the picnic area to the steps constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC).
- Removed metal debris from the picnic area and channel.

Cress adds that the Forest Service intends to continue working with community members and interested agencies throughout the upcoming months to develop a long-term plan for the Catwalk. The closure of the universally accessible trail and Whitewater Creek from the CCC steps to the junction of Gold Dust Trail #41 will remain in effect following reopening of the lower portion of Catwalk National Recreation Trail.

Please contact the Glenwood Ranger District office for further information, (575) 539-2481.

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